

Madam Speaker,

This week House Republicans must decide if they are going to support a bipartisan bill that provides health care to four million more children, or if they are going to back a Bush administration plan that would leave 800,000 more children uninsured.

Today, the Children's Health Insurance Program ensures that six million children have access to private health insurance. Earlier this year, President Bush proposed increasing CHIP funding by \$5 billion over the next five years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office concluded that this plan would result in 800,000 children losing their health coverage.

The President's proposal was unacceptable to many of us. Our bipartisan compromise bill allows us not only to insure all the children currently in the program, but also allows us to cover the additional 4 million children who are already eligible but not enrolled in CHIP.

Madam Speaker, House Republicans have a decision to make. I hope they stand up for the 10 million children and help us override the president's veto.

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